SUBJECTS.

II. *Law, Justice and Police.*

15. *Changes in the Marumakkathayom law and the appointment of Commission to enquire into system of inheritance.*

Mr. K. Krishnan Pandalai (Member, Quilon Taluk) presented a memorial signed by the representatives of the Assembly following the Marumakkathayom system of inheritance and requested that a commission might be appointed, composed of Marumakkathayom gentlemen, to enquire into the present working of that system of inheritance in view to legislation.

The following changes in the Marumakkathayom law were also proposed:—

(*a*) the necessity for the Karanavan to keep accounts of income and expenditure of the Tarawad; (*b*) the right of junior members to have access to the accounts; (*c*) no decree should bind the Tarawad unless all the adult members thereof are made parties; (*d*) sales and mortgages should be upon the written consent of all the adult members; (*e*) in suits affecting Tarawad interests, all the adult members to be impleaded; (*f*) complete power of bequest to be given to Marumakkathayees over their self-acquisitions; (*g*) the self-acquisition of a Marumakkathayee dying intestate should go to his wife and children; (*h*) in suits by junior members questioning the validity of Tarawad debts, the creditors should not only prove consideration but also Tarawad necessity; and (*i*) Tarawads related to one another more remotely than through a common grandmother be given the right for a division of property.

Dewan's reply.—The whole question will be referred to a small committee for investigation and report. The committee will be instructed to formulate definite proposals if they consider any legislation necessary.

16. *Legislation regarding inheritance among Native and Syrian Christians.*

Mr. R. V. Kulandasamy Pillai (Member, Catholic Indian Association, Trivandrum) requested that the disabilities of Hindu converts to Christianity in the matter of inheritance should be removed and such legislation passed as would enable them to enjoy their property, as well as any other subject of the State. In British India, such disabilities had been removed, and in this country where religious toleration and freedom of convenience were being allowed, the existing state of things appeared to be an anomaly. At the last session of the Assembly, Government referred to the difficulties which beset interference in matters of inheritance; and the member said that it could not be the intention of a liberal Government like theirs to allow one portion of the population of His Highness to suffer, merely because there were difficulties in the way of removing their grievances and improving their lot.

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